

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 FMC-01

DOT-00 /091 W

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O R 311008Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3896

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VAO

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP JULY 31 - LUANDA

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED FROM JULY 30. PART OF THE POPULATION NOVA REDONDO WAS EVACUATED BY SHIP JULY 30 TO LOBITO. CONVOYS OF REFUGEES HAVE LEFT MALANGE HEADING FOR NOVA LISBOA. A HAM OPERATOR TOLD ME AT 0900 HOURS TODAY THAT FIGHTING HAS FLARED UP IN LUSO AND GABELA.

2. THE MPLA BURIED ITS DEAD FROM THE JULY 27 VILA ALICE INCIDENT AMID LARGE CROWDS AND EMOTIONAL SPEECHES. THE FINAL, CORRECT VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED IS AS FOLLOWS: THE NIGHT OF THE WOUNDING OF THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS, THE PORTUGUESE TOLD THE MPLA THERE WOULD BE PUNITIVE ACTION IF THE CULPRITS WERE NOT HANDED OVER BY EIGHT O'CLOCK THE NEXT MORNING. THE PORTUGUESE GAVE MPLA AN EXTRA TWO HOURS AND WENT TO VILA
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ALICE AT TEN. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PORTUGUESE WAS

THE OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE HIGH COMMAND, WHO SAID THE PORTUGUESE WOULD TAKE INTO CUSTODY ALL MPLA MILITARY AT VILA ALICE UNTIL THE CULPRITS WERE HANDED OVER. THE MPLA SPOKESMAN, A MINOR OFFICER, SAID HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DO ANYTHING AND WOULD HAVE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. AS THE TALK BROKE UP MPLA FIRED FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING AND THE COMMANDOS RESPONDED. FOUR COMMANDOS WERE WOUNDED AND 15 MPLA KILLED. IT WAS IN THIS INCIDENT THAT THE MPLA CASUALTIES OCCURED. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER COMMANDOS GOING BY VILA ALICE IN A VEHICLE BLASTED IT, BUT THERE WERE FEW CASUALTIES AND NO DEAD. AFTER THE INCIDENT THE MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE TOLD THE PORTUGUESE IT WOULD PLAY IT DOWN AND NOT TRY AND WHIP ITS FOLLOWERS INTO A FRENZY. THEY TOOK EXACT OPPOSITE TACK. PORTUGUESE MILITARY ARE DETERMINED TO ACT JUST AS STRONGLY IN THE EVENT OF FUTURE PROVOCATION.

3. LUANDA'S FEW REMAINING DOCTORS THREATENED TO GO ON STRIKE AFTER A WOMAN ANESTHESIOLOGIST WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HER HOME JULY 28 BY FIVE ARMED MEN. HER NINE YEAR OLD SON TRIED TO STOP THEM AND WAS BASHED IN THE FACE. NEITHER HER WHEREABOUTS NOR THE MOTIVATION ARE KNOWN.

4. A MINOR OFFICIAL JUST DOWN FROM AMBRIZETE REPORTED THAT THE FNLA HAS THROWN THE PORTUGUESE OUT OF THE POST OFFICE, POLICE AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATION AND TAKEN OVER THESE FUNCTIONS.

5. MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN RECENT DAYS. HE HAS VISITED THE PORT OF LUANDA AND TRAVELLED TO THE TOWNS ALONG THE HIGHWAY TO SALAZAR. ON JULY 29 HE MET IN THE INDUSTRIAL SUBURB OF VIANNA WITH ENTREPRENEURS, MERCHANTS AND WORKERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. HE SAID THE MPLA IS NOT AGAINST WHITEY. BUT IT WAS THE WHITES WHO COMMITTED MANY ABUSES AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND IT IS THE WHITES AT THIS MOMENT WHO ARE CAUSING THE ECONOMIC DECLINE OF THE NATION, SOME OF THEM WITH MALICE AFORETHOUGHT. THE MPLA IS GOING TO DEFEND THE CONTINUATION OF ALL INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DECLINE IN PRODUCTION IS DUE TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL CONFUSIONS, HE SAID. IT IS A WELL PLANNED SABOTAGE. LET THEM GO, HE CONTINUED, WE ARE NOT GOING TO DIE. WHO WILL SUFFER MOST WILL BE PORTUGAL AND THE WHITES WILL BE BACK IN ANGOLA IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

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6. OFFICIALS OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MET JULY 30 WITH OIL COMPANIES OPERATING HERE (INCLUDING TEXACO AND MOBIL) TO PLAN EMERGENCY IMPORTS OF FUEL. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOLD THE COMPANIES THE LOCAL REFINERY IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN OPERATION UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER. THE OIL COMPANIES BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO IMPORT SUFFICIENT FUEL TO SUPPLY ANGOLA AN LPG TANKER WAITING TO UNLOAD HERE HAS FLED AND SUPPLIES

OF LPG WILL BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE A REPLACEMENT SHIPMENT CAN
BE ARRANGED.

7. THE FIRE AT THE SHELL TANK WAS FINALLY EXTINGUISHED THANKS
LARGELY TO A CEASEFIRE ARRANGED BY THE PORTUGUESE WHICH ALLOWED
CREWS TO WORK UNMOLESTED.

8. A PORTUGUESE PASSENGER SHIP HAS ARRIVED AT THE DOCK AND
THE PORT AREA IS AN INDESCRIBABLE MESS OF CRATED HOUSEHOLD
EFFECTS AND CARS WAITING TO GET ON BOARD.
KILLORAN

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